

Message Text

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SUBJECT: IOWA IOGA AND GOVERNOR RAY'S VISIT TO SAUDI
ARABIA

REF: STATE 83347

1. DEPTOFF (MORRISON) VISITED DES MOINES APRIL 21 TO
BRIEF GOVERNOR RAY CONCERNING DEVELOPMENTS ON CURRENT
BOYCOTT LEGISLATION.

2. DURING BRIEFING FOR GOVERNOR RAY, MARVIN POMERANTZ
ASKED WHETHER HIS PARTICIPATION IN TRADE MISSION VISIT TO
SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE EMBARRASSMENT FOR GOVERNOR OR FOR
OTHER MISSION MEMBERS. POMERANTZ IS LONG-TIME POLITICAL
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SUPPORTER OF THE GOVERNOR, A PROMINENT DES MOINES BUSINESS-
MAN (BANKING AND REAL ESTATE), AND AN INFLUENTIAL LEADER
IN JEWISH COMMUNITY. DEPTOFF ASSURED POMERANTZ THAT HIS
RELIGION NEED NOT BE CAUSE FOR ANY CONCERN.

3. POMERANTZ HAD IMPRESSION THAT HIS APPLICATION FOR A
VISA WAS HELD UP BY SAUDI EMBASSY BECAUSE OF RELIGION

ISSUE. DEPTOFF INFORMED HIM THAT ONLY PROBLEM IN PROCESSING APPLICATION AROSE FROM FACT THAT POMERANTZ' NAME WAS NOT INCLUDED IN LIST OF MISSION MEMBERS SUBMITTED TO USDOC BY STATE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. THIS OVERSIGHT WAS QUICKLY CORRECTED WHEN USDOC WAS INFORMED OF POMERANTZ' INCLUSION IN GOVERNOR'S PARTY. SAUDI EMBASSY WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT POMERANTZ IS JEWISH ISSUED VISA WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY UPON RECEIPT OF USDOC NOTIFICATION OF HIS INCLUSION IN TRADE MISSION DELEGATION.

4. WE EXPECT POMERANTZ TO ACCOMPANY GOVERNOR ON HIS CALLS RATHER THAN SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL BUSINESS. ALTHOUGH POMERANTZ REMAINS SKEPTICAL (AND SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE) ABOUT SAUDI ATTITUDES TOWARD JEWS, HE IS AFFABLE AND SEEMS OPEN TO EVIDENCE THAT THE SAUDIS ARE WILLING TO DO BUSINESS WITH JEWISH BUSINESSMEN AND TO WELCOME THEM TO SAUDI ARABIA.

5. APRIL 21 FRONT PAGE DES MOINES REGISTER ARTICLE BILLS TRADE MISSION MEMBER CHARLES KNOX AS FORMER DES MOINES BLACK PANTHER LEADER AND SELF-DESCRIBED SOCIALIST. UNFORTUNATELY, KNOX MISSED NEARLY ALL OF SEPARATE BRIEFING FOR ABOUT HALF OF TRADE MISSION MEMBERS (I.E., THOSE LEAVING FROM DES MOINES). IN PASSING DISCUSSION DEPTOFF WAS ABLE TO HAVE WITH KNOX, LATTER GAVE IMPRESSION OF BEING SERIOUS ABOUT HIS MISSION PARTICIPATION.

6. ABOVE INFORMATION SUPPLIED FOR BACKGROUND AND ANY USE DEEMED APPROPRIATE. PARTICIPATION BY GOVERNOR RAY SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE GREAT ASSET IN ADVANCING TRADE MISSION GOALS IN SAUDI ARABIA.
VANCE

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